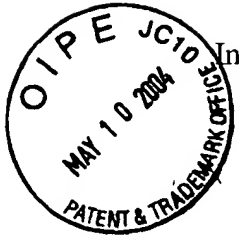


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



Inventor : Yasuji OTA  
Masanao SUZUKI  
Yoshiteru TSUCHINAGA

**RECEIVED**

MAY 14 2004

Technology Center 2600

Serial No. : 09/386,824

Filed : August 31, 1999

Title **VOICE CODING METHOD, VOICE CODING  
APPARATUS, AND VOICE DECODING  
APPARATUS**

Examiner : Abul K. Azad

Group Art Unit : 2654

May 10, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE**

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions for a two-month extension, a petition pursuant to 37

C.F.R. § 1.136(A) and authorization to charge the requisite fee being enclosed.

In response to the final Office Action dated December 10, 2003, please amend the  
subject application as follows:

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not  
covered by an enclosed check, may be  
charged on Deposit Acct. No. 50-1290.

Filed by Express Mail  
Receipt No. EL 980188196 US  
On May 10-04  
By: Patricia Muir  
Patricia Muir

D